CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS

45 THRILLING PAGES of CAPTAIN AMERICA..... PLUS OTHER GREAT FEATURES!

NICE WORK, CAP!

AS THE HANGMAN PULLED THE NOOSE, CAPTAIN AMERICA STRUCK!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

battles the CAMERA FIEND and his DARTS of DOOM

ART and EDITORIAL by JOE SIMON • JACK KIRBY

IN THE OFFICES OF THE UNITED STATES MARITIME COMMISSION TWO MEN DISCUSS THE ARRIVAL OF A BOAT--
THE BRITAINNIA ARRIVES WITH THE CROWN JEWELS ON BOARD, JOHNSON. I WANT YOU TO PHONE CAMP LEHIGH FOR A MAN TO GUARD THEM
I'LL DO THAT AT ONCE, SIR

THEY'RE SENDING A MAN RIGHT AWAY, SIR

GOOD! I'LL WRITE OUT A REQUEST FOR A STRONG GUARD TOMORROW. THE CROWN JEWELS MUST BE KEPT SAFE FROM GREEDY HANDS!

But AT THAT MOMENT ELSEWHERE, A SINISTER CRIMINAL MIND DECODES A TRANSATLANTIC CABLEGRAM

IT SAYS CROWN JEWELS ARRIVING FROM ENGLAND... RAID MARITIME OFFICE FOR EXACT INFORMATION'

HA! THE CROWN JEWELS -- *WHAT A HAUL!* I'LL GET THE INFORMATION WITH THIS LITTLE CAMERA! *COME ON MEN!*

TRAILING BEHIND THEIR FEARSOME LEADER, THE THUGS VANISH INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE WATERFRONT...

SOON AFTER, AT THE MARITIME OFFICE, THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

KNOCK-KNOCK

THAT MUST BE THE MESSENGER FROM CAMP LEHIGH. *LET HIM IN...*

YES, SIR

WHA-?

The NEXT INSTANT THE YOUNG OFFICER IS BURIED BENEATH AN AVALANCHE OF INRUSHING HOODLUMS..

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS -- AND WHO ARE YOU?

I MIGHT BE CALLED THE CAMERA FIEND -- LET ME TAKE YOUR PICTURE -- *HEE-HEE-HEE-*

WHY, YOU -- --I'LL --

CLICK!

AARGH!

WITH MY CAMERA I SILENCE ALL FOOLS WHO STAND IN MY WAY!

Meanwhile, THE MESSENGERS FROM FORT LEHIGH ARRIVE ON THE SCENE

I STILL THINK YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED IN CAMP, BUCKY. IT'S LATE AND YOU'VE GOT SCHOOL TOMORROW

AW, THIS IS MORE FUN! THERE'S THE MARITIME OFFICE, STEVE.

THIS IS THE PLACE, ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO UP, BUCKY

BOY! A REAL MILITARY MISSION. WAIT'LL I TELL THE SENTINELS OF LIBERTY!

SUDDENLY--

JUMPIN' JUPITER!

STEVE! LOOK OUT!

OW!

GET INTO YOUR COSTUME, BUCKY

SOMETHING FISHY IN THE MARITIME OFFICE, EH?

WHILE WITHIN THE MARITIME OFFICE.

HERE'S THE INFORMATION! THE STEAMSHIP BRITTAINIA ARRIVES TOMORROW AT DOCK FIVE WITH THE CROWN JEWELS! THE WEALTH OF KINGS-- IN MY HANDS!

AREN'T YOU A LITTLE AHEAD OF TIME?

SORRY TO DISTURB YOU BOYS

I'M GONNA TACKLE THIS LUG WITH THE CAMERA

YOU LITTLE BRAT! I'LL SOON FIX YOU!

TAKE A LETTER!

AND NOW FOR A GOOD ACTION SHOT OF YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

With LIGHTNING SPEED, CAPTAIN AMERICA ROLLS OVER, WHIPPING HIS SHIELD AROUND JUST AS THE FIEND'S CAMERA CLICKS!!

CLICK!

DING!

WHILE CENTERING HIS ATTENTION ON THE CAMERA FIEND, *CAPTAIN AMERICA* IS CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY A BURLY MOBSTER--

GOOD WORK, SLUG!

LIGHTS OUT FOR YOU, FANCY PANTS!

A MOMENT LATER--

R-R-R-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E

CAN'T STOP TO FINISH HIM OFF! THE COPS ARE HERE! LET'S SCRAM!

AFTER THE CAMERA FIEND AND HIS MEN HAVE GONE, THE TWO UN-CONSCIOUS FIGURES SLOWLY RECOVER.

A FINE PAIR WE ARE -- LETTING THEM GET AWAY WITH VALUABLE INFORMATION

WE MUST BE SLIPPING. OW, MY HEAD!

THE POLICE ARE BREAKING IN! LET THEM TAKE OVER-

ACROSS THIS ROOF, CAP! COME ON!

LATER--

WHAT'S THIS STICKING IN MY SHIELD?

WHY, IT'S A NEEDLE -- A POISONED NEEDLE!

SO THAT'S WHAT THAT DEVIL SHOOTS OUT OF HIS CAMERA!

THE RAT! HE'LL BE AFTER THE CROWN JEWELS TOMORROW CAMP LEHIGH WILL FURNISH A SPECIAL GUARD WHEN THEY HEAR ABOUT THIS TONIGHT

The NEXT MORNING AT SCHOOL, BUCKY SPEAKS TO PROFESSOR LUCIUS HALL...

WE SURE WOULD!

PLEASE LET US, PROFESSOR

MAY WE TAKE PICTURES ALONG THE DOCK THIS AFTERNOON? I THINK ALL THE FELLOWS WOULD LIKE IT

ALL RIGHT, BOYS, WE'LL GO! BRING YOUR CAMERAS AND WE'LL SNAP THE STATUE OF LIBERTY. AS SENTINELS OF LIBERTY, THAT WOULD BE VERY PATRIOTIC!

THAT AFTERNOON ON THE DOCKS, BUCKY FINDS STEVE ROGERS ON GUARD DUTY...

PSST--STEVE! I'LL BE WITH THE SENTINELS OF LIBERTY IN CASE ANY-THING BREAKS. YOU CAN COUNT ON US!

OKAY, BUCKY. I'M SURE THE ARMY APPRECIATES YOUR REINFORCEMENTS

HE WAS KINDA SARCASTIC!

--THINKS WE'RE ORDINARY KIDS!

WE'RE SENTINELS OF LIBERTY!

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, FELLAS

A SHORT TIME ELAPSES BEFORE A SMALL, GREY STEAMER SAILS INTO THE HARBOR, ENDING A PERILOUS VOYAGE THROUGH SUB-MARINE-INFESTED WATERS

INSPIRING SIGHT, THE STATUE OF LIBERTY, EH, WOT, SIR DRAKE?

YES, CAPTAIN. MY MISSION IS OVER. I'LL CERTAINLY BE GLAD TO SEE THE CROWN JEWELS IN SAFE HANDS

But OTHER EYES WATCH THE SHIP WITH A GREEDY GLINT-- *THE EYES OF THE CAMERA FIEND!!*

THE STEAMSHIP "BRITTAINIA" IS SAILING INTO THE HARBOR--AND ON IT ARE THE CROWN JEWELS! *NOW TO OUTWIT THOSE FOOL ARMY GUARDS!*

AS THE SHIP DOCKS, THE BOYS WHO HAVE JOINED PROFESSOR HALL WATCH A DISTINGUISHED FIGURE DESCEND THE GANG PLANK...

BOY, WHAT LUCK! A REAL DIPLOMAT!

WHY, THAT'S SIR MAITLAND DRAKE, THE ENGLISH DIPLOMAT!

LET'S SNAP HIM, FELLERS!

CLICK

SUDDENLY, SIR MAITLAND DRAKE CLUTCHES HIS THROAT AND PITCHES FORWARD...

A-A-A-A-R-R-GH

CLICK!

HOLY MACKEREL! HE'S DEAD!

BUT WHAT KILLED HIM?

THIS IS SOME MORE OF THE CAMERA FIEND'S WORK! COME ON, BUCKY

OKAY STEVE!

WORK FAST, CHUM! WE CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY THIS TIME!

WE'LL NAIL HIM!

Meanwhile, WITH ATTENTION BEING CENTERED ON THE DOCK, THE CAMERA FIEND AND HIS MOB SWARM OVER THE SHIP FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

THE SURPRISED CREW TURN TO FACE A DEADLY HAIL OF MACHINE-GUN SLUGS!

WHA-?

OW!

RAT-TAT-TAT-RAT--

NOW TO GET THE CROWN JEWELS FROM THE HOLD

LEADING HIS VICIOUS KILLERS THE CAMERA FIEND RUSHES BELOW DECKS

The SAILORS GUARDING THE PRICELESS JEWELS ARE SHOT IN COLD BLOOD BY THE SNARLING INVADERS!!

RAT-TAT-TAT

BANG!

BANG!

The GANGSTERS BLOW OPEN THE SAFE AS THE FIEND'S GREEDY FINGERS SEIZE THE ROYAL JEWEL BOX!!

AH! WHAT BEAUTY! WHAT MAGNIFICENCE! WHAT PRICELESS WEALTH! --ALL MINE!

YAHOO!

THINK AGAIN, FIEND!

LIKE HUMAN TORPEDOES, CAP AND BUCKY LAUNCH THEMSELVES INTO THE GANG!!!

I ALWAYS HEARD ABOUT RATS ABOARD A SHIP!!

AND WE'RE FROM THE EXTERMINATING COMPANY!

PERFECT TIMING, PAL!

I HOPE HE CAN'T SWIM!

A POISONED DART WILL TAKE THE FIGHT OUT OF YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

A KICK IN THE PANTS WILL FIX YOU!

HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

LET GO OF MY CAPE, YOU LITTLE BRAT!

TEARING LOOSE FROM BUCKY'S GRASP, THE CAMERA FIEND RUSHES TO THE UPPER DECK AND RACES AWAY--

THE CAMERA FIEND IS GETTING AWAY AGAIN!

DARN IT! I CAN'T SEE HIM ANYWHERE NOW! I DIDN'T KNOW A SCARED RAT COULD RUN THAT FAST!

SO, OUR GRUESOME FRIEND MADE ANOTHER GETAWAY, EH?

OH! --IT'S YOU, CAP! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHERE'S THE REST OF THE FIEND'S MOB?

THEY'RE SLEEPING PEACEFULLY BELOW DECKS--UNTIL THE SOLDIERS WAKE THEM... THANK HEAVENS WE WERE IN TIME TO SAVE THE CROWN JEWELS!

LET'S GET BACK TO THE CROWD, PAL, BEFORE THEY BEGIN TO MISS US!

RIGHT! I'LL BET OLD PROFESSOR HALL HAD A GOOD FRIGHT FROM ALL THIS EXCITEMENT. HE'LL BLAME ME FOR BRINGING THE CLASS!

SHORTLY AFTER LEAVING THE SHIP UNNOTICED, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY EMERGE FROM THEIR HIDING PLACE ON THE DOCK AS PRIVATE STEVE ROGERS AND BUCKY BARNES...

OKAY, BUCKY. I'LL SEE YOU LATER

YOU BET, STEVE!

BUCKY REJOINS HIS CLASS...

BUCKY! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I FEARED YOU WERE LOST!

GOSH, SIR, I-I WAS WATCHING A MAN CATCHING A FISH

HA-HA-HA... WHATTA DOPE! WITH ALL THIS EXCITEMENT HE'S WATCHING A GUY HAULING FISH! AND WE SCOOPED HIM ON PICTURES TOO!

I'M NOT ASLEEP ALL THE TIME! I CAN GET PICTURES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA ANY TIME I WANT TO!

CHEE!

OH YEAH?

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

ALL RIGHT, SMART ALECK! I'LL TAKE SOME SHOTS OF HIM TONIGHT AND GIVE 'EM OUT TO YOU GUYS TOMORROW! -- FOR FREE!

BOYS! BOYS! NO QUARRELING, PLEASE! DON'T FORGET YOU'RE LITTLE GENTLEMEN!

Meanwhile, THE CROWN JEWELS ARE TAKEN TO CAMP LEHIGH PROTECTED BY AN ARMED ESCORT--

That NIGHT, IN HIS LAIR, THE CAMERA FIEND VOWS VENGEANCE UPON HIS ENEMY, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

THIS IS THE LAST TIME CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL FOIL ME! BUCKY'S GOING TO TAKE HIS PICTURE-- -- HEE--HEE--HEE-- --WITH MY CAMERA!

LATER, AT CAMP LEHIGH, A SECRETIVE HAND REACHES WITHIN STEVE ROGERS' AND BUCKY'S TENT--

HEE-HEE- -HEE-HEE

JUST AFTER THE SUBSTITUTION IS MADE, STEVE AND BUCKY ENTER!

GUESS I'LL ROLL IN. THE CROWN JEWELS ARE SAFE NOW, UNDER GUARD.

AW, C'MON, STEVE, BE A SPORT! LET ME TAKE JUST ONE PICTURE OF YOU--- OR ELSE THE FELLAS IN SCHOOL WILL RIB ME NO END--

I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET TO BED. OKAY, SHOOT AWAY!

AW, GEE, YOU'RE SWELL, CAP! BOY! WAIT'LL THE GANG SEES THIS SHOT!

THE CAMERA FEELS KINDA FUNNY--I MUST BE DREAMING THINGS CUZ I LOADED IT MYSELF JUST BEFORE..

OKAY, CAP, GET SET!

I'M READY

BUCKY AIMS THE CAMERA AT CAPTAIN AMERICA WHO WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, SWINGS UP HIS SHIELD JUST AS THE CAMERA CLICKS!!

PING!

CLICK!

WHA?

WHAT'S THE IDEA OF THROWING YOUR SHIELD UP, CAP? YOU ACTED LIKE I WAS SHOOTING A GUN AT YOU, NOT A CAMERA!

YOU WERE, BUCKY!

THE MINUTE YOU SAID YOUR CAMERA FELT FUNNY, I WAS ON MY GUARD. ELSE THIS POISONED NEEDLE MAY HAVE FINISHED ME OFF!

GOSH, THIS IS THE FIEND'S CAMERA-- --A DUPLICATE OF MY OWN!--I--I-- MIGHT HAVE KILLED YOU, CAP! J-J-JUMPIN' C-C-CATFISH!

BUT I'VE A HUNCH HE'LL BE BACK TONIGHT, BUCKY! SO I'LL LIE DOWN AND PLAY DEAD. WHEN HE COMES, I'LL NAB HIM!

SO, HE WANTS TO TRAP ME, EH? I FAILED TO GET CAPTAIN AMERICA THIS TIME. BUT I HAVE ANOTHER PLAN. I'LL SLIP THEM A NOTE, HEE-HEE--

An hour later--

SAY! I'M GETTING TIRED OF THIS! I GUESS THE FIEND IS WISE TO US!

LOOK! A NOTE-- --SLIPPED UNDER THE TENT FLAP!

HMMM--I'LL SAY HE'S WISE TO US. READ THIS NOTE!

LET ME SEE

I hope you enjoyed your rest, Captain! Why dont you go back to school? You have a lot to learn before you can best me. The Camera Fiend

PERHAPS OUR FRIEND, THE FIEND HAS SOMETHING THERE, BUCKY! HMMM -- NOT A BAD IDEA! **BUCKY, I'M GOING TO SCHOOL WITH YOU!**

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE UP TO, CAP! IN FACT, IT SOUNDS LOCO! BUT, **BOY!** WHAT A KICK THE FELLAS WILL GET WHEN THEY SEE YOU-- **IN PERSON!**

The NEXT MORNING, BUCKY PROUDLY BRINGS **CAPTAIN AMERICA** INTO HIS CLASSROOM --

LAST NIGHT I PROMISED YOU FELLAS A SNAPSHOT OF **CAPTAIN AMERICA**, BUT HOW WILL THIS DO-- BRINGING HIM

WOW!

RAY!

IT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA!

I'M GLAD TO MEET ALL YOU FINE BOYS AND GIRLS!

WE'RE **SENTINELS OF LIBERTY,** CAPTAIN AMERICA -- AND WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITIN' FOR A CHANCE TO SHAKE YOUR HAND

ME TOO

Y'MEAN THE BOTH OF YOU!

SEATING HIMSELF AT A VACANT DESK, **CAPTAIN AMERICA** ASTOUNDS THE TEACHER AND CLASS BY SAYING...

PROFESSOR HALL, WOULD YOU MIND IF I ATTENDED YOUR CLASS TODAY?

ATTEND CLASS? WHY--UH--ER--NO. I--I'D BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU--I--I--

CLASS BEGINS, BUT THERE ARE CONSTANT INTERRUPTIONS AS THE EXCITED YOUNG STUDENTS TAKE SNAPSHOTS OF THEIR FAVORITE HERO--

BOY, OH, BOY!

WHAT A PICTURE THIS WILL MAKE!

CLICK!

I SHOULD BE ANGRY WITH THE BOYS FOR TAKING PICTURES DURING A LESSON. BUT WITH SUCH AN HONORED GUEST AS YOU IN OUR MIDST, I AM TEMPTED TO SNAP YOUR PICTURE MYSELF. DO YOU MIND?

NOT AT ALL, SIR!

I'M SURE THIS WILL BE A FINE SHOT--
--***A FINE SHOT!***

CLICK!

JUST AS I THOUGHT!

PING!

TO THE UTTER AMAZEMENT OF THE CLASS, CAPTAIN AMERICA LEAPS AT PROFESSOR HALL!

SO **YOU'RE** THE CAMERA FIEND, PROFESSOR HALL!

BY DAY A RESPECTABLE SCHOOL TEACHER--
--BY NIGHT--A MARAUDING KILLER!

WHAT? HOW DARE YOU SAY SUCH THINGS ABOUT ***ME?!***

OW!--***MY WRIST!*** ***YOU'RE TWISTING--***
--IT--
OOOW!

I CAUGHT YOU IN THE ACT! ARE YOU GOING TO CONFESS?

OW! -- I'LL TALK! B-BUT HOW DID YOU SUSPECT IT WAS ME?

A STARTLING CHANGE COMES OVER THE MEEK LITTLE PROFESSOR AS HE LISTENS TO CAPTAIN AMERICA---

I'LL TELL YOU, MISTER JEKYLL AND HYDE! IT WAS THAT NOTE! YOU WANTED ME HERE TODAY-- --TO KILL ME WITH A POISONED NEEDLE!

SUDDENLY, THE EXPOSED KILLER BREAKS FREE!

OUT OF MY WAY, BRATS!

COME ON, BUCKY! HE WANTS TO PLAY TAG!

COUNT ME IN, CAP!

THE CHASE LEADS TO THE BASEMENT BELOW!

NO TIME TO BE FORMAL!

GOOD THING I HAD YOU MUGS PLANTED HERE AS JANITORS! BEAT HIM UP!

BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA IS AMBUSHED

OH-OH!

STAGGERED BY THE WEIGHT OF NUMBERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA GOES DOWN FIGHTING FIERCELY TO DISLODGE HIS ADVERSARIES

THEY'VE FLOORED CAP! NOW'S THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD SENTINELS TO COME TO THE AID OF THEIR COUNTRY!

BLOWING HIS BATTLE WHISTLE, BUCKY SIGNALS THE SENTINELS OF LIBERTY TO RALLY TO THE FRAY!

WHEEEEEEEEEEE

WHEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!

THAT'S BUCKY'S BATTLE WHISTLE! COME ON, BOYS, THE FIGHT'S ON!

LEADING HIS BAND OF BRAVE SENTINELS OF LIBERTY, BUCKY CHARGES INTO THE FIGHT!

LET'S GET THOSE GORILLAS!

YAHOO!

YAHOO!

UP AND AT 'EM!

WE'LL MOIDER DA BUMS!

ONE OF THE THUGS ATTACKING CAPTAIN AMERICA GETS THE FIRST INDICATION OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE SENTINELS OF LIBERTY

PFF-FF-COUGH-COUGH-WHO'S THROWIN' DOSE BOARD ERASERS?

THE SENTINELS OF LIBERTY!

TAKE THAT, RAT!

OW!

THINK YOU'RE TOUGH, EH?

HEY! WOT IS DIS-- DA REVOLUTION?

HERE COMES ANOTHER GORILLA, BOYS 16-42-12-HEP!

YAHOO!

HEY, WHAT!!

POW!

BAM!

OOW!

NICE WORK, FELLAS!

GET ME A LAWYER!

HAVING BEEN FREED BY THE SENTINELS, CAPTAIN AMERICA TEARS INTO THE CAMERA FIEND, ALIAS PROFESSOR HALL!

CAPTAIN AMERICA'S NEXT BLOW HITS WITH THE FORCE OF A BATTERING RAM!

WELL, THAT ENDS THE BLOODY CAREER OF THE CAMERA FIEND AND CLOSES THE CASE OF THE CROWN JEWELS

THAT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SOCK, CAP!

THANKS, FELLAS! YOU HELPED ME OUT OF A TIGHT SPOT!

IT WAZ NUTHIN', CAP! FER YOU WE'D DO IT AGAIN!

AND LET ME THANK YOU TOO FOR HELPING, SENTINELS OF LIBERTY ALL THROUGH OUR GREAT AND GLORIOUS LAND! ALL BOYS AND GIRLS ARE SENTINELS OF LIBERTY WHETHER THEY WEAR THE BADGE OR NOT. AMERICA IS SAFE WHILE ITS BOYS AND GIRLS BELIEVE IN ITS CREEDS!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Meet the FANG

ARCH FIEND OF THE ORIENT

PLANTED DEEP IN THE SHADOWY HEART OF SAN FRANCISCO'S CHINATOWN, THE CRUEL HATCHET MEN OF THE EVIL **FANG** SWARMED FROM THEIR SECRET DEN TO CARRY OUT THEIR BLOODY ORDERS--AND THOSE WHO WERE FOOLHARDY ENOUGH TO RESIST WERE SUBJECTED TO A FATE THAT CHILLED THE BLOOD OF LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE. BUT ***CAPTAIN AMERICA*** AND BUCKY DARED TO DEFY THE MONSTER KNOWN AS... THE **FANG!**

DEEP IN THE CROWDED CENTER OF SAN FRANCISCOS CHINATOWN, AN AGENT OF AN ASIATIC AGGRESSOR NATION WAITS FOR AN IMPORTANT INTERVIEW!

I TRUST YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER WILL SEE ME NOW.

THE GREAT FANG WILL SEE YOU WHEN HE IS READY!

THE DRAGON'S HISS! THE MASTER WILL SEE YOU NOW, BARON NUSHIMA!

S-S-S

CHU YIN! BARON NUSHIMA AND I ARE NOT TO BE DISTURBED. ANY INTERRUPTION WILL BE REWARDED WITH PAINFUL DEATH!

THE DEAL WE DISCUSSED EARLIER THIS WEEK HAS BEEN FOUND AGREEABLE TO FANG! THE SERVICES OF MY SECRET ORGANIZATION ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL!

GOOD! WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE!

THE CHINESE EMISSARIES, CHAN AND LIANG, ARRIVE AT CAMP LEHIGH TOMORROW BEFORE TRAVELING ON TO WASHINGTON TO PLEAD FOR A MONEY LOAN TO CHINA. THEY MUST NOT GET THE LOAN!

MY HATCHET-MEN SHALL GIVE THOSE VENERABLE GENTLEMEN A WARM RECEPTION!

JUST ONE MORE THING, POWERFUL ONE!

THE CHINESE OFFICIALS WILL BE GUARDED BY A SOLDIER--ONE, STEVE ROGERS. HE MAY BE ON THE ALERT AND MAKE HIMSELF ANNOYING!

HA-HA-HA! STEVE ROGERS! A SOLDIER WITH SUCH A SIMPLE NAME MUST BE A SIMPLE FELLOW! I WILL CRUSH HIM AS ONE WOULD A COMMON FLY!

AT CAMP LEHIGH, SERGEANT DUFFY INFORMS STEVE ROGERS OF HIS NEW ASSIGN-MENT!

YOU'RE DETAILED TO GUARD THE CHINESE OFFICIALS. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO 'EM, YOU BETTER DESERT!

I HEARD ABOUT THEIR BEING THREATENED... WE'LL WATCH THEM EVERY MINUTE!

WE'LL BE LIKE MOTHERS TO 'EM, SARGE!

THAT NIGHT, STEVE AND BUCKY STAND GUARD TO PROTECT THEIR ORIENTAL CHARGES...

BUCKY AND I WILL BE IN THE NEXT ROOM ALL NIGHT. NOBODY CAN GET IN HERE WITH-OUT PASS-ING US.

THE EVIL FANG IS AS CLEVER AS THE DEVIL HIMSELF. HIS HATCHET-MEN WILL SPARE NONE OF US ONCE THEY HAVE GAINED ENTRANCE. BE ON YOUR GUARD, TRUST-WORTHY ONE.. GOODNIGHT.

THE HOURS TICK SLOWLY BY AS STEVE AND BUCKY KEEP A WATCHFUL VIGIL...

D'YA THINK THIS LUG FANG WILL SHOW UP, STEVE?

MAYBE-

UNNOTICED BY THE TWO CRIME-FIGHTERS, A THIN CURL OF SWIRLING VAPOR SEEPS INTO THE ROOM FROM UNDER THE DOOR...

THE SINISTER GAS TAKES IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

GOSH...I-I-FEEL SORTA TIRED - - SLEEPY--I-I- BUCKY! **BUCKY!** COVER YOUR NOSE! WE'RE BEING DRUGGED! I-I-

STEVE! **STEVE!** IT'S THE FANG AND HIS HATCHET-MEN!

WITH STEVE DRUGGED AND HELPLESS, BUCKY TACKLES THE ORIENTAL KILLERS BY HIMSELF!

THE CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE AWAKENED BY THE SCUFFLE AND RUSH INTO THE ROOM TO BUCKY'S AID!

HELP THE BOY, LIANG!

AT ONCE, HONORABLE CHAN!

AIE!

QUICK! CUT DOWN THE ONE CALLED LIANG!

WHILE, LIKE A TRUE SOLDIER, BUCKY GOES DOWN FIGHTING EVEN AS HE'S OVERPOWERED BY WEIGHT OF NUMBERS!

STAY YOUR HATCHET, WONG! I WANT THE OLD MAN, CHAN, FOR OTHER PURPOSES

I GO TO YOUR TORTURE CHAMBER UNAFRAID. BUT HAVE MERCY ON THE BOY - LET HIM GO!

NONSENSE, GOOD CHAN! YOU AND THE BOY SHALL PROVIDE THE FANG WITH RARE SPORT... YOU SHALL BOTH DIE SCREAMING IN AGONY AT THE HANDS OF MY ARTFUL TORTURERS!

WHEN STEVE ROGERS REVIVES AN HOUR LATER, HE FINDS THE ROOM CROWDED WITH F.B.I. OPERATIVES AND ARMY OFFICIALS TO WHOM HE RELATES WHAT HAPPENED.

I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO HOLD YOU 'TILL FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS MADE, ROGERS.

POOR FELLOW... TAKE THIS, STEVE!

THEY CAN'T HOLD ME, BETTY! BUCKY AND CHAN ARE IN THE FANG'S HANDS! THEY NEED HELP! I'VE GOT TO FIND THEM!

DON'T WORRY, STEVE! I'M GETTING ON THE CASE RIGHT NOW! LIANG DID NOT DIE INSTANTLY WHEN THE FANG'S HATCHET-MEN CUT HIM DOWN!

BUT HIS LIFE WAS EBBING FAST. HE OVERHEARD THE FANG ORDER BUCKY AND CHAN TAKEN TO A HIDEOUT IN LOTUS STREET IN THE CHINESE SECTION OF THE CITY.. WHEN THE FANG HAD GONE, LIANG MANAGED TO PHONE US.. HE GAVE US THIS CLUE BEFORE HE DIED!

LOTUS STREET, EH?

STEVE IS LATER IMPRISONED IN THE GUARD HOUSE WHERE A STARTLING CHANGE IS MADE WHEN HE IS LEFT ALONE IN HIS CELL.

HANG ON, KID! CAPTAIN AMERICA IS COMING!

SORRY, SOLDIER. BUT I'VE GOT TO GET OUT!

I'LL BE BACK SOON TO GET YOU OUT OF THIS, PAL!

BLUB-BLUB-

ONLY THE SPEED OF LIGHT COULD MATCH THE FLEETNESS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S FORM AS HE DISAPPEARS AMONG THE CITY'S WINDING STREETS!!!

Meanwhile, IN THE FANG'S HIDEOUT--

THE BAND GROWS TIGHTER, DOES IT NOT, CHAN? PAIN STABS THROUGH YOUR HEAD LIKE A THOUSAND KNIVES

YOUR HEAD SEEMS ABOUT TO BURST INTO SMALL FRAGMENTS! SCREAM, CHAN, **SCREAM!** THE PAIN IS FRIGHTFUL! HOW CAN YOU ENDURE IT? *LET ME HEAR YOU SCREAM!*

SUDDENLY, THE BLINKING LIGHT OF A NEARBY CRYSTAL ATTRACTS THE FANG'S ATTENTION...

BY THE SEVEN DRAGONS! WHO DARES INTERRUPT THE FANG'S AMUSEMENT?

LET ME GO! YOU BRAINLESS BUNCH OF MUSCLES!

THIS GIRL SECRET SERVICE SPY, MASTER WE FIND HER STEALING THROUGH WINDOW

THAT IS GOOD

THE FANG MUST SHOW HIS HIGH REGARD FOR ONE OF THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICE... THE MORE ELABORATE TORTURES SHALL BE RESERVED FOR HER INSTEAD! CHAN AND THE BOY, BUCKY SHALL DIE AT ONCE! *QUICKLY AND PAINFULLY*

YOU MURDERING DOG! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

FANG FEARS NO ONE! HOWEVER-

BUCKY!

--IN THE BOY'S CASE, I WILL BE MERCIFUL. HE SHALL DIE FIRST... HIS HEAD SHALL BE CHOPPED OFF INSTEAD OF SAWED OFF SLOWLY AS CHAN'S SHALL BE!

YOU MAY STRIKE NOW, WONG!

SO LONG, CAP. I DID MY BEST. LONG LIVE LIBERTY!

THE EXECUTIONER'S SWORD NEVER DESCENDS--

BONK

WHA-?

HANG ON, KID! I'M COMING!

WE'RE GOING TO TOWN, BUCKY! HERE COME SOME CHINA BOYS AND THEY'RE NOT WAVING LAUNDRY TICKETS!

CAP! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!

GET THOSE TWO!

緒!

天皇

PEEL OFF YOUR DUDS AND PITCH IN!

OKAY! NAIL 'EM, CAP!

BOY! THAT'S WHAT I CALL HOLDIN' THAT LINE!

WOW!

GIVE ME THAT SWORD!

BOYS WHO THROW HATCHETS GET IN TROUBLE!

SO I'LL HAVE TO KEEP YOU OUT OF MISCHIEF!

捷友

Meanwhile, THE SHADOW OF DEATH HOVERS OVER CAPTAIN AMERICA--

A LIGHTNING-SWIFT MOVEMENT OF HIS SHIELD SAVES CAP FROM BEING BEHEADED!

HERE! TRY SOME OF MY BRAND

AND NOW, MISTER FANG, I'M READY FOR YOU!

TERRIFIED BY CAPTAIN AMERICAS FIGHTING PROWESS, THE FANG LEAVES HIS PRISONERS AND BEATS A HASTY RETREAT!

YOU CAN'T GET AWAY, FANG! YOU'RE GOING TO GET WHAT'S COMING TO YOU!

YOU'LL NEVER GET ME!

GOTCHA!

BAM!

AA-I-E-EEE!!

S-S-SOCK!

THIS DELIGHTFUL MUSIC HURTS ONE'S EARDRUMS

A few minutes later--

I'M THROUGH WITH THE FANG NOW. YOU CAN HAND HIM OVER TO THE F.B.I. I MAY ALSO ADD THAT YOU'RE A VERY BRAVE GRL

THANK YOU, BUT--

Before BETTY ROSS CAN FINISH HER SENTENCE, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY DASH OUT OF THE DOORWAY INTO THE NIGHT

BACK TO CAMP, CAP?

YOU MEAN BACK TO THE *GUARDHOUSE!* I'M SUPPOSED TO BE LOCK-ED UP IN THERE!

The STRANGE CASE of CAPTAIN

WHO KILLED DOCTOR VARDOFF

I'VE NOTHING TO HIDE, FOLKS. BUT ONE OF THESE SUSPECTS HAS-- --BECAUSE HE OR SHE IS THE KILLER! ONE OF THEM IS THE HANGMAN AND I'LL TRACK HIM DOWN!

MY NAME IS MY OWN BUSINESS. JUST CALL ME THE MAN WITH THE MONOCLE. IT'S TRUE THAT I WANT VARDOFF'S FORMULA, BUT I DIDN'T HANG HIM!

SURE I SAW VARDOFF BEFORE HE WAS BUMPED OFF! THE BOSS SENT ME TO SHAKE HIM DOWN FOR SOME DOUGH. BUT YA CAN'T PIN THE RAP ON ME!

IN A SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY AT THE EDGE OF A SMALL, QUIET TOWN

I'VE GOT IT! AFTER YEARS OF RESEARCH, I'VE GOT IT!

ISS IT WORTH MONEY, DOCTOR VARDOFF?

WORTH MONEY? JUST TRY TO BREAK OUT OF THIS THIN STRAND!

UGH!

AMERICA and the HANG-MAN

LET 'EM TRY AND GUESS WHO I AM!-- BECAUSE ANYONE WHO FINDS OUT WILL FIND HIMSELF DANGLING AT THE END OF THIS ROPE BEFORE HE CAN SQUEAL! THAT GOES FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA AN' BUCKY, TOO!

WHO, ME? NO! NO! I AM LOODVIG, HIS ASSISTANT. DOCTOR VARDOFF VAS MEIN BEST FRIEND. I DIDN'T DID IT!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THE HANG-MAN IS. MY BACK WAS TURNED WHEN HE KILLED ME... YOU SEE, I'M DOCTOR VARDOFF, *THE DEAD MAN!*

THE ONLY THING I KNOW ABOUT THIS CASE IS THAT I'M GONNA HELP CAP SOLVE IT

YOU CAN'T GET LOOSE, LUDWIG! A SINGLE STRAND OF SUPER-SILK IS STRONG AS STEEL! I'LL MAKE MILLIONS!

After RELEASING LUDWIG, VAR-DOFF RECEIVES A PHONE CALL

I KNOW--*I KNOW*-YOU MEN HAVE INVESTED A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN MY RESEARCH. I PROMISED YOU RETURNS AND YOU'LL GET THEM WHEN I SELL MY SUPER-SILK FORMULA!

THE FOOLS! HOUNDING ME EVERY DAY! WHY WON'T THEY LET ME ALONE WITH MY WORK? WHY MUST EVERYONE PLAGUE ME SO?

A LITTLE WHILE LATER, ANOTHER VISIT IS PAID TO DOCTOR VARDOFF--

MY NAME IS DINO CARDI. I REPRESENT CERTAIN-ER-BUSINESS INTERESTS WHO'D LIKE TO KNOW THE PRICE OF YOUR FORMULA

HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?

WE MAKE IT OUR BUSINESS TO KNOW MANY THINGS! WE CAN MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE IF YOU PLAY BALL WITH US---OR MAKE YOU PLENTY SORRY IF YOU REFUSE!

INTIMIDATION, EH? SHOW THE MAN OUT, LUDWIG!

YOU GO, YA?

YOU'LL BE SORRY! I WARN YOU!

MINUTES PASS--ANOTHER KNOCK IS HEARD AT THE DOOR...

WILL THEY NEVER LET ME ALONE? SEE WHO THAT IS, LUDWIG!

KNOCK-KNOCK

YA--I GO SEE

THANKS, DUTCHY! QUITE A PLACE YOU HAVE HERE

WHO ARE YOU?--AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?

YOU'RE DOCTOR VARDOFF, AIN'TCHA? THE BOSS SENT ME. YOU NEED PROTECTION--FOR FIFTY PERCENT OF THE PROFITS ON SUPER-SILK! CATCH?

GET OUT! I'LL HAVE NO DEALINGS WITH CRIMINALS!

OKAY! OKAY!

HAVE IT YOUR WAY, DOC! BUT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS— DON'T BLAME ME... TA-TA-

DOCTOR VARDOFF'S NEXT CALLER IS A UNIFORMED ARMY MAJOR...

I'M MAJOR CRANE FROM CAMP LEHIGH. THE ARMY IS INTERESTED IN YOUR SUPER-SILK IN CONNECTION WITH IMPROVING OUR PARACHUTES!

SEND A MAN BACK TONIGHT. I'LL HAVE A PARACHUTE READY FOR YOU TO TEST

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE VARDOFF'S LABORATORY, STEVE ROGERS AND HIS PAL BUCKY WAIT FOR THE MAJOR IN THE STAFF CAR...

IF VARDOFF'S SUPER-SILK IS GOOD, IT'LL MAKE MILLIONS

LOOK, STEVE! THERE'S A MAN WATCHING THE HOUSE!

HE LOOKS LIKE A FOREIGN AGENT TO ME

IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION, BUCKY!

THAT GUY LOOKS LIKE A GANGSTER, STEVE I SMELL TROUBLE BREWING

YOU READ TOO MANY COMICS, BUCKY

AND THAT LUG IS UP TO NO GOOD, EITHER!

THAT'S LUDWIG, DOCTOR VARDOFF'S ASSISTANT

AT THAT MOMENT, MAJOR CRANE EMERGES FROM VARDOFF'S HOUSE --

BACK TO CAMP, ROGERS. YOU'LL RETURN HERE TONIGHT FOR A PACKAGE

YES, SIR!

That NIGHT, STEVE AND BUCKY DRIVE TO VARDOFF'S HOME TO PICK UP THE PACKAGE

I HOPE NOTHING'S HAPPENED AT DOCTOR VARDOFF'S LABORATORY

STOP IT, BUCKY, YOU SOUND SILLY!

WHILE WITHIN THE LABORATORY--

SILENCE HIM!

UH!

GONNA STRING HIM UP, HANGMAN?

AH!---A STRING OF SUPER-SILK! IT WILL MAKE A SPLENDID NOOSE! YES--WE'LL STRING HIM UP! DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES!

Their GRUESOME DEED DONE, THE HANGMAN AND HIS CONFEDERATES RIFLE THE SAFE!

THE FORMULA FOR SUPER-SILK! NOW DUMP ALL THE CHEMICALS ON THE FLOOR!

THIS'LL COVER UP OUR WORK!

BOY, LOOK AT DAT STUFF BOIN!

MEANWHILE, STEVE ROGERS AND BUCKY REACH THE FLAMING LABORATORY, CHANGING INTO THEIR ACTION SUITS AS THEY SEE THE FIRE

COME ON, KID! I'M AFRAID THAT MURDER'S BEEN DONE!

RIGHT!

I'M AHEAD OF YOU, CAP. SAY--LOOK!

WOW! DIS PLACE WENT UP LIKE A PAINT FACTORY!

HA-HA!! WITH NO ONE THE WISER OF THE HANGMAN'S VISIT. THIS WILL LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENTAL FIRE-- NOW FOR A QUICK GETAWAY

WHAT'S YOUR HURRY, BOYS? GOING TO A FIRE?

OW!

EAT LEAD! YOU STAR SPANGLED CHUMP!

SORRY, RAT! IT'S NOT ON MY DIET!

SPANG!

BUT TRY SOME OF THIS ON YOUR MENU!

WE'LL SHOW YOU ARSON-ISTS A HOT TIME!

The HANGMAN'S EYES BLAZE IN FURY AS HE PRODUCES A THIN STRAND OF SUPER-SILK--

THIS'LL STOP THESE WILDCATS!

WHA-?

CRACK!

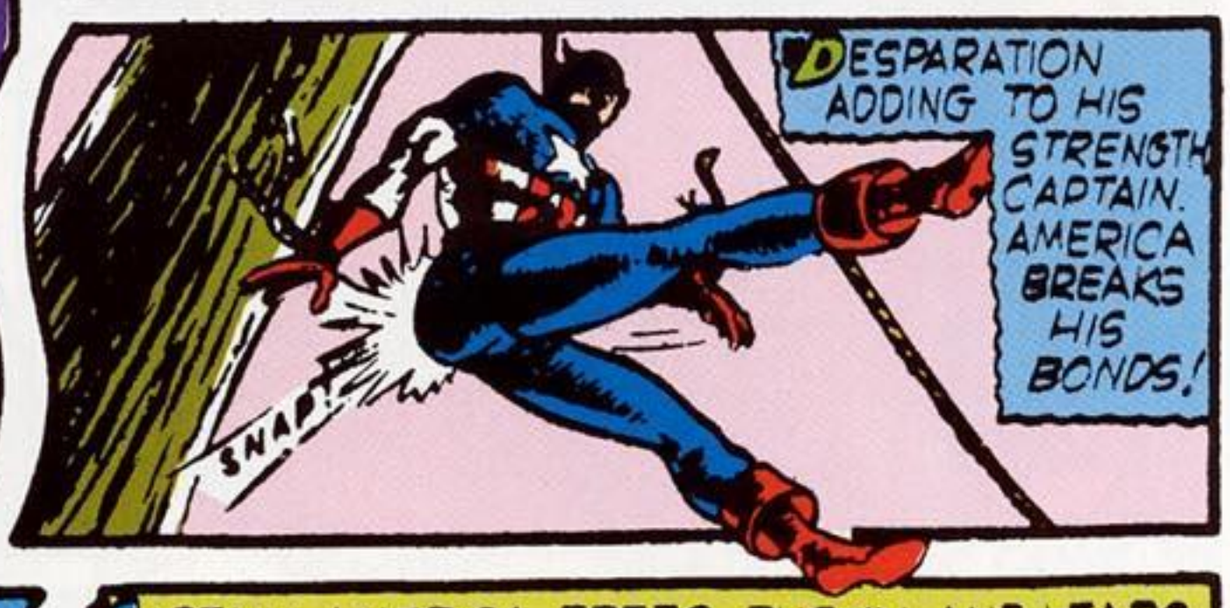
FIRE-ENGINES!
COPS!
THERE'S NO TIME TO FINISH THESE TWO! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
MOMENT LATER, CAP AND BUCKY REVIVE TO FIND THE HANGMAN AND HIS MOB GONE AND A FIERY BLAZE LIGHTING THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD--
YOU OKAY, CAP?
COME ON, BUCKY! NO TIME TO WASTE
CLIMBING AN ADJOINING BUILDING, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY LEAP ACROSS TO THE FLAMING INFERNO THAT IS VARNOFF'S HOUSE!
NO ONE'S ALIVE IN THERE! CAN'T SAVE MUCH!
IN THE BLAZING BUILDING, CAP AND BUCKY DISCOVER THEIR RESCUE ATTEMPT IS IN VAIN!
BUCKY! LOOK!
WE'RE TOO LATE--HE'S DEAD!
HE'S BURNED TO A CRISP! COME ON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
CAP! I-I CAN'T MAKE IT-- --SMOKE- --LUNGS- --CAN'T BREATHE
HANG ON, BUCKY! WE'LL GET OUT!

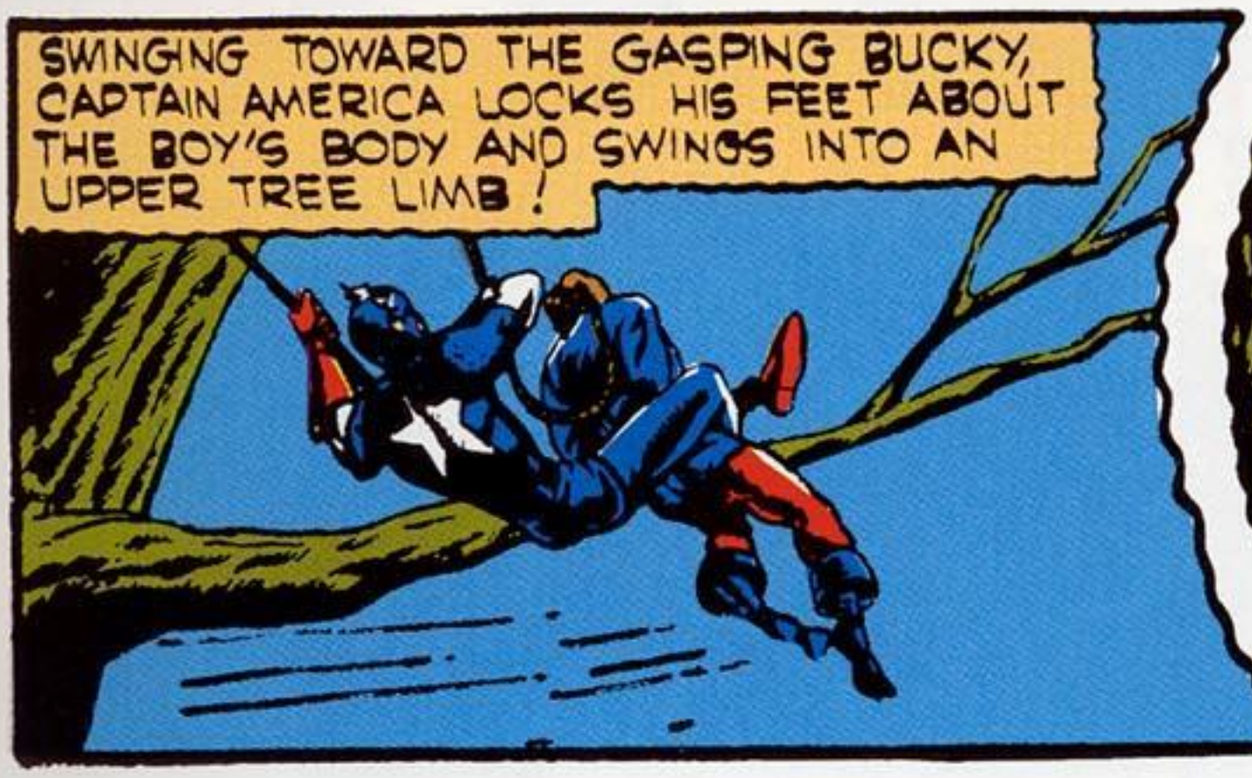
REVIVED BY THE FRESH AIR, STEVE AND BUCKY HOP ACROSS ANOTHER ROOF AND CLIMB TO THE GROUND!
THERE ARE THE ARSONISTS!
SAY, WHAT IS THIS?
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
LYNCH 'EM!

YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE, I TELL YOU!
SHUT UP!
STRING 'EM UP!

HELPLESS AGAINST THE MOB, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY ARE DRAGGED TOWARD A TALL OAK TREE --
WON'T YOU LISTEN? I'M CAPTAIN AMERICA!
HA-HA!
AN' I'M THE KING OF SIAM!
RUB THE SOOT OFF OUR UNIFORMS AND YOU'LL SEE!

BUT THE YELLING MOB IS DEAF TO REASON AND...
UP THEY GO!
THE DOGS!


DESPARATION ADDING TO HIS STRENGTH CAPTAIN AMERICA BREAKS HIS BONDS!
SNAP!


SWINGING TOWARD THE GASPING BUCKY, CAPTAIN AMERICA LOCKS HIS FEET ABOUT THE BOY'S BODY AND SWINGS INTO AN UPPER TREE LIMB!

CAPTAIN AMERICA FREES BUCKY AND LEAPS TO A NEARBY TREE FOLLOWED BY HIS PAL!
I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU, KAZAR!

SWINGING FROM TREE TO TREE, CAP AND BUCKY EFFECT A LIGHTNING ESCAPE FROM THE GAPING, DUMB-FOUNDED MOB. AFTER A QUICK CHANGE THEY HEAD BACK TO CAMP LEHIGH

GOSH! IT CERTAINLY FEELS UNCOMFORTABLE WHEN YOU'RE HANGING!

YES, IT WAS A NARROW SQUEEZE, KID! I'LL MAKE IT JUST AS UNCOMFORTABLE FOR OUR FRIEND, THE HANGMAN, WHEN I FIND OUT WHO HE IS!

The NEXT DAY, THE PAIR FACE MAJOR CRANE

THIS IS SIMPLY OUTRAGEOUS! THAT SUPER-SILK FORMULA IS VALUABLE TO THE ARMY. ---AND, I'M AFRAID FOREIGN AGENTS MAY GET HOLD OF IT. DID YOU SEE ANYTHING, ROGERS!

THE BULLETIN

RAIDERS KILL SCIENTIST AND BURN LABORATORY

SUPER-SILK FORMULA STOLEN

YES, SIR... I THINK THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR DOCTOR VARDOFF'S DEATH IS A CRIMINAL WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE HANGMAN! WITH YOUR PERMISSION, SIR, I'D LIKE TO MAKE SOME FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS

I ADMIRE YOUR SPIRIT, ROGERS. BUT YOU HAVE OTHER DUTIES IN CAMP. BESIDES, I DON'T SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO THAT THE POLICE CAN'T. BETTER FORGET ABOUT IT!

YES, SIR!

AS STEVE AND BUCKY LEAVE THE MAJOR'S OFFICE--

WE COULD SLIP AWAY FROM CAMP TONIGHT, STEVE

NO, *WE* CAN'T, KID. BUT *CAPTAIN AMERICA* AND *BUCKY* CAN MAKE IT!

That NIGHT, TWO FIGURES SEARCH THE CHARRED RUINS OF DR. VARDOFF'S LABORATORY--

THE HANGMAN STRUNG VARDOFF UP ABOVE-- HIS BODY FELL HERE-- HMMM--

ANY CLUES, CAP!

SUDDENLY, CAPTAIN AMERICA WHIRLS!

COME OUT OF THERE, YOU!

THE MYSTERIOUS INTRUDER LASHES OUT WITH HIS FOOT, SENDING CAPTAIN AMERICA SPRAWLING!

CAPTAIN AMERICA'S EYES GLARE ICILY AT HIS OPPONENT AS HE ADVANCES WITH HIS CLENCHED FIST!

THE IMPACT OF A TERRIFIC BLOW ECHOES THROUGH THE EMPTY RUINS AS A MAN'S BODY COMES CRASHING THROUGH THE BURNED OUT WALL!

SAY, CAP! YOU KNOW WHO THIS GUY IS?

IT'S LUDWIG! VARDOFF'S ASSISTANT! SO IT WAS YOU WHO KILLED HIM AND BURNED DOWN THE HOUSE. YOU WANTED THE SILK FORMULA FOR YOURSELF! CONFESS!

NO! NO! I'M INNOCENT!

I CAME HERE TONIGHT LIKE YOU, FOR CLUES. DOCTOR VARDOFF VAS MEIN FRIEND - I-I THINK I KNOW WHO DID IT! IT VAS DER MAN MIT DER MONOCLE - HIS NAME IS-

AAAAARRGH!

HOLY MACKEREL! HE'S BEEN STRANGLED!

THE NOOSE CAME FROM BEHIND THIS WALL!

A GIRL!
HOLD ON, SISTER!
HEY! OW!
LET ME GO OR I'LL SCRATCH YOUR EYES OUT!
EASY! YOU LITTLE GUN-MOLL! WHY DID YOU JUST STRANGLE LUDWIG?
YOU'RE DAFFY! THE BOSS SENT ME TO FIND A CLUE TO THE MUGS WHO HIJACKED THE FORMULA. HE WANTS A CUT OUT OF IT. THAT'S ALL I KNOW. NOW LET GO OF ME!
PROTECTION RACKET, EH? IS YOUR BOSS THE "HANGMAN?"
CAP! LOOK OUT!
AW RIGHT, LACY PANTS, TAKE DAT!
MOBSTERS!
SPANG
TRY SOME OF THIS!
OW!
WOW! EVERYBODY'S HERE TONIGHT
GET 'EM, BUTCH!

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY PRESS THE MOBSTERS TOWARD AN OPENING IN THE FLOOR AND THEY PLUNGE THROUGH THE FIRE-WEAKENED TIMBERS TO THE FLOOR BELOW!

SEE YOU! DOWNSTAIRS, BOYS!

HALP!

NOW WE'LL WRING THE TRUTH OUT OF THE GIRL!

C-CAP!!

THE GIRL!

-AND LUDWIG!

THIS IS SOME MORE OF THE HANGMAN'S WORK!

I'M AFRAID WE'RE TOO LATE.. HE'S GONE!

SUPER-SILK! WHOEVER HAS THE FORMULA IS USING IT... TO SILENCE ALL POSSIBLE WITNESSES!

WE KNOW IT WASN'T LUDWIG. OR THE GUN-MOLL AND HER GANG.. SO WHO'S LEFT?

THE MAN WITH THE MONOCLE! A FOREIGN AGENT WHO, HAVING STOLEN THE FORMULA, MAY BE COVERING UP HIS THEFT BY SILENCING ALL WITNESSES WHO MAY HAVE CONNECTED HIM WITH IT!

SAY, THAT'S EASY TO DEDUCE.. WHERE TO NOW, CAP?

YEAH. TOO EASY! COME ON, KID. WE'RE GOING TO THE CITY MORGUE!

LATER, IN THE MORGUE - - -

W-WHY D-DID YOU C-COME T-TO THIS P-P-PLACE, CAP?

I WANT TO LOOK AT DOCTOR VARDOFF'S BODY, BUCKY!

HERE IT IS!

YE GODS! HE'S ALMOST BURNT TO A CINDER!

AHA--

WHAT IS IT, CAP? WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?

A GLASS EYE!

SO WHAT?

DOCTOR VARDOFF DIDN'T HAVE A GLASS EYE. THEREFORE-

THEREFORE, CAPTAIN, YOU HAVE BECOME TOO DANGEROUS TO LIVE!

CAP! IT'S THE HANGMAN! HE'S GOT US!

STRUGGLING IS USELESS! SUPER-SILK IS UNBREAKABLE!

SOON YOU TWO SHALL OCCUPY SLABS ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE DEAD IN HERE!

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY ARE THROWN INTO A WAITING CAR AND DRIVEN TO A DESERTED HOUSE AT THE EDGE OF TOWN!

I BELIEVE YOU'VE GUESSED MY SECRET, CAPTAIN AMERICA! THAT'S WHY YOU AND THE BOY MUST DIE!

BUCKY KNOWS NOTHING LET HIM GO.

THE BOY SHALL DIE WITH YOU! AIMED AT YOUR BACK IS A LITTLE INVENTION OF MINE... IT WILL EJECT A STREAM OF POWERFUL ACID WHICH WILL DISSOLVE YOUR BODY IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!

BUT UNKNOWN TO THE HANGMAN, THE LITTLE DROPS OF ACID DRIPPING FROM THE SPRAY GUN'S NOZZLE ARE FALLING DIRECTLY ON THE STRANDS OF SUPER-SILK THAT BIND CAPTAIN AMERICA'S HANDS

HIS BONDS WEAKENED BY THE ACID, CAPTAIN AMERICA TEARS FREE AND LAUNCHES A FURIOUS ATTACK ON HIS STARTLED CAPTORS!

GO GET 'EM, CAP! YAHOO!

HE'S LOOSE!

USE YOUR GUNS, *YOU FOOLS!* HE CAN LICK THE LOT OF YOU WITH HIS FISTS!

THERE! YOU'RE FREE, BUCKY!

WOW! AM I GONNA WHALE INTO THOSE BABIES! *YAHOO!*

OOFA!

HIS MEN BREAKING UNDER CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY'S SMASHING ATTACK, THE ENRAGED HANGMAN DESPERATELY HURLS A BEAKER OF ACID AT CAPTAIN AMERICA!

THIS ACID WILL STOP YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

WHY YOU-

RAT!

JUST AS I SUSPECTED! SO YOU ARE THE HANGMAN!

WHO IS IT, CAP? I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE.

I'LL TELL YOU, BUCKY

MEET DOCTOR NICOLAI VARDOFF!-- --ALIAS THE HANGMAN!

DOCTOR VARDOFF? BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS--

NO, I WASN'T DEAD. IT WAS ANOTHER MAN'S BODY THAT WAS HANGING IN MY BURNING LABORATORY!

IT WAS THE MAN WITH THE MONOCLE WHOSE BODY WE FOUND... WASN'T IT?

YES. HE WAS A BUSINESS MAN WHO WANTED TO BUY THE FORMULA HE WORE A MONOCLE TO HIDE HIS GLASS EYE.

AND WHEN HE CAME BACK TO YOUR LABORATORY THAT NIGHT TO OFFER YOU MORE MONEY, YOU STRANGLED HIM AND CHANGED CLOTHES WITH THE BODY - AND HUNG IT WITH A STRING OF SUPER SILK!

THAT'S NOT TRUE! I HAD GONE OUT TO HIRE SOME BODYGUARDS TO PROTECT ME FROM RACKETEERS WHO THREATENED ME... I RETURNED WITH THE BODYGUARDS THAT NIGHT TO FIND THE MONOCLED FELLOW DRESSED IN MY SMOCK AND RIFLING MY SAFE FOR THE FORMULA... I WENT MAD!! I-I--HUNG HIM AND BURNED THE LABORATORY!

I KILLED LUDWIG BECAUSE HE SUSPECTED THE TRUTH! JUST AS I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU AND THE BOY..THE GUN-MOLL I DISPOSED OF OUT OF PURE REVENGE.

I WANTED TO BE LEFT ALONE WITH MY WORK--IF I WERE THOUGHT DEAD I WOULDN'T BE ANNOYED BY SPIES, RACKETEERS AND RUTHLESS BUSINESSMEN--SO I KILLED TO OBTAIN THAT PRIVACY! THAT'S THE ENTIRE STORY!

PLEASE SEE THAT THE SUPER-SILK FORMULA IS DELIVERED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. IT'S A LAST GESTURE FROM DOCTOR VARDOFF BEFORE HE PAYS FOR THE HANGMAN'S CRIMES!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND?

VARDOFF SUDDENLY TURNS THE ACID SPRAY GUN ON HIMSELF!

YOU DO NOW! AAA--

LOOK OUT, BUCKY

OH, CAP--IT'S HORRIBLE! THAT ACID--IT'S EATING AWAY--DISSOLVING HIS BODY-I-I--CAN'T LOOK--

THE FORMULA IS SAFE AND HE'S PAID FOR HIS CRIMES LET'S KEEP HIS IDENTITY A SECRET!

Special OFFER to Readers of CAPTAIN AMERICA

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ON THE BACK COVER OF THE NEXT ISSUE ☆ Of ☆ CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS

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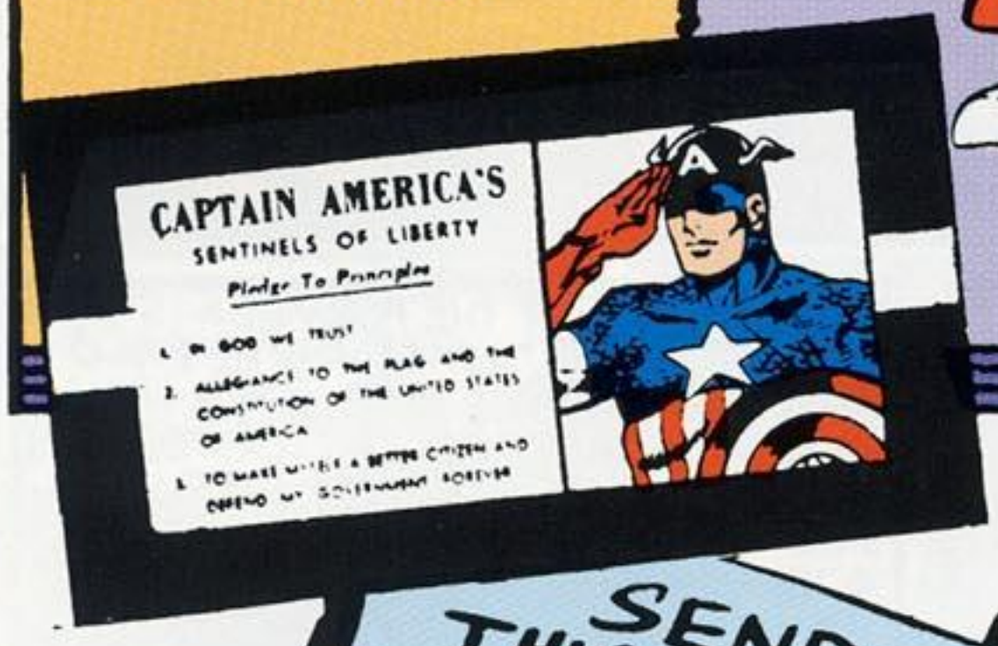
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